

'Forgotten hostage' back with his air

By John Smith

THE "forgotten" hostage, Tom Sutherland, was back among his sin folk yesterday — to deliver a heartfelt thank-you for their prayers for him during his six-and-a-half years of captivity in Beirut.

A congregation of 200, including his two former brothers Willie and Peter, and sisters Margaret, Lena and Elizabeth, packed the small Bothkennar Parish Church, near Falkirk, for the Sunday morning service.

They heard Dr Sutherland, 60, tell how he had drawn great strength while in captivity from his memories of what he described as the most important church of the four he had attended during his life.

The naturalised American described the former minister, William McLaren, who was 40 years at Bothkennar, as a "wonderful" man. "I had many fine thoughts about him when I was a hostage."

Dr Sutherland said he also used to think about what was written on the wall above the pulpit. "Come unto Me all ye



Dr Sutherland at the pulpit.

That labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

He had given him great solace. Dr Sutherland said he had no idea what was going on back in his home state of Colorado and in Scotland, until near the end of his captivity. I heard a lot of things about the friends of Terry Anderson, the Friends of John McCarthy and the Church of England efforts for Terry Waite.

"I guess ... I was the forgotten hostage. But he who laughs last laughs longest. I have come back to the most tumultuous welcome that one could imagine in Fort Collins, Colorado, and now Bothkennar."

"It touches me more deeply than I could ever express to you. For all the prayers you have offered over the years, for all the meetings you have attended, for all the things you have done, thank you a thousandfold. I'll never forget it."

There was poignancy earlier in the choice by the minister, the Rev Willie Whitelaw, of the lesson, Psalm 40, read out by Dr Sutherland. "I have waited patiently for the Lord. He inclined to me and heard me cry."

The lesson continued: "He drew me up from the desolate pit out of the mirey bog and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. I have told the glad news of my deliverance in the great congregation."

In his sermon, Mr Whitelaw praised Tom Sutherland for returning to university in Beirut to be with his students, in spite of being aware of the dangers. For his commitment he had ended up suffering years of torture and privation.

At the conclusion of the service, Dr Sutherland stood with the minister and shook hands with each of the congregation as they left — and with a large number of media representatives.

Later he talked about the



His most important church: Tom Sutherland outside Bothkennar Parish Church, near Falkirk, yesterday, when he attended it.

ovation he received from Rangers fans when he ran out on to the pitch at Ibrox. Saturday, the turf he trod as a Rangers reserve more than 40 years ago. "I felt like Michael Jackson. They gave me a marvelous reception — it was very touching."

Dr Sutherland, who was entertained by the Rangers chairman, David Murray, said

he had been given a team photograph with him in it as a 17-year-old. Among the great pictures was Willie "Wildcat" with whom he spent 45 minutes over lunch reminiscing before the match with Hibs.

After the game, which Rangers won 2-0, Dr Sutherland met the Rangers team. Ally McCoist he described as a

great personality. "That guy would go far even if he couldn't play football. But he was a super player — he has a great combination."

Dr Sutherland also talked recently about criticism he had made of Terry Waite. He said he had probably said more than he should have about rows he had with the Church of England envoy.

"He has plenty of problems without me making them worse for him. He upsets me from what I read in the papers, to be having some difficulty in re-adjusting to society."

Dr Sutherland said they both had strong personalities and had argued about things including the Church, particularly the Anglican Church and

Fox abducted by hunt saboteurs during fracas

By Sarah Wilson

HUNT saboteurs claimed a victory yesterday when they made off with the fox during a fracas at the Renfrewshire meet.

Sarah Lewis, of the Chesham hunt saboteurs, said that the hounds had chased the animal into a barn at Burnside Farm, near Neilston, where it took refuge under bales of hay.

"The fox was under a lot of stress and we were worried it might die of a heart attack."

In the ensuing fracas between the activists and the hunters, a few saboteurs bundled the fox into a van and took it to the Henshield Wildlife Rescue Centre.

The fox had been bitten in the neck by one of the hounds. A rescue centre spokeswoman said it would be returned to the woods in a few days.

Alastair Campbell, joint master of the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire hunt, said the

fox probably would have been left alone if the saboteurs had not been there.

He went on: "It is very unusual for a fox to be injured during a hunt. We would either have left it alone or arranged for it to be humanely killed."

"By the time the hunt reached the barn most of the hunting fraternity had gone home and there was a very small field — only a handful of people left."

The huntman Chris Wood was trying to get control of the hounds and take them away when he was surrounded by about 20 shouting and screaming saboteurs.

Mr Campbell said the hunt was called off while the fox was still in the barn because the hunters feared for their safety.

He claimed that a member of the hunt was struck by a saboteur and would be press-

ing assault charges as soon as the identity of the saboteur could be established.

Mr Wood refused to comment.

■ A hunt master who was suspended two months ago to help to restore the reputation of the Quorn in Leicestershire, a favourite meet of the Prince of Wales, may resign.

Captain Fred Barker had been "totally used", his wife claimed yesterday.

The captain, who was expected to hunt with the Quorn yesterday, was quoted by the *Herald* on Sunday as saying: "I don't know where to go or what to do next. I'm distressed, disenchanted and disillusioned. I don't know if I'll hunt again."

Captain Barker, who was master of the Quorn for 13 years until 1985, was reappointed in November after four joint masters were barred from office.

Challenge on jails privatisation plan

THE Government was being challenged today to release details of its private prisons programme by MPs backbenches

One in four girls 'play hard to get'

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